AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/660,522, filed September 12, 2000 (now abandoned), which is a continuation of Application No. 09/029,497 filed June 9~~February 26~~, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,248,722, issued June 19, 2001); which is a 371 National Stage Application of PCT/JP96/02359 filed August 22, 1996, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph 9 at page 3 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In Fig. 2, the (line) graph shows cell growth rate in the presence or absence of HGF from the HVJ-liposome-cont-sensitized endothelial cells in Test Example 2, wherein "DSF" designates a group of endothelial cells sensitized with HVJ-liposome-cont and "HGF" designates a group of endothelial cells incubated in the presence of recombinant human HGF at a predetermined concentration. The bar in Fig. 2 shows the cell growth rate of the HVJ-liposome-DNA-sensitized endothelial cells in Test Example 2, wherein "DSF" designates a group of endothelial cells sensitized with HVJ-liposome-cont and "HGF vector" designates a group of endothelial cells sensitized with HVJ-liposome-DNA. (* : $p < 0.05$ vs. DSF; ** : $p < 0.01$ vs. DSF; # : $p < 0.05$ vs. human recombinant HGF, 100ng/ml.)

Please replace the paragraph no. 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 12 ~~is a drawing~~ shows drawings at two different magnifications showing that 3 weeks after administration of HVJ-liposome-DNA into the joint, development of cartilage-like cells was noted in Test Example 9, as evidenced by synthesis of Toluidine Blue-stained proteoglycan.

Please replace the paragraph no. 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 13 ~~is a drawing~~ shows drawings at two different magnifications showing that 4 weeks after administration of HVJ-liposome-DNA into the joint, development of cartilage-like cells was noted in Test Example 9, as evidenced by synthesis of Toluidine Blue-stained proteoglycan.

Please replace the paragraph no. 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 14 ~~is a drawing~~ shows drawings at two different magnifications showing that even 4 weeks after administration of HVJ-liposome-DNA (TGF-β) prepared in Comparative Example 2 into the joint, such development of cartilage-like cells as evidenced by the fact that synthesis of Toluidine Blue-stained proteoglycan was not observed in Test Example 9.

Please replace the paragraph no. 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 15 ~~is a drawing~~ shows drawings at two different magnifications showing that even 4 weeks after administration of HVJ-liposome-cont prepared in Comparative Example 1 into the joint, no such development of cartilage-like cells as evidenced by the fact that synthesis of Toluidine Blue-stained proteoglycan was observed in Test Example 9.